

REMARKS

Claims 1-9 are currently pending in the application. Claims 5 and 7-9 are currently being considered, of which claim 5 has been amended and claims 7-9 have been newly added. Applicant respectfully believes that no new matter has been introduced.

Before turning to the cited art, a review of the present invention is in order. The present invention relates to a semiconductor substrate jig, with rubber film being arranged on a porous plate, with a sheet member (film/projection tape) being attached onto the rubber film, and with an object (wafer) being attached onto the sheet member (see FIG. 2B and pages 16-17 of the specification). The rubber film is arranged on the porous plate and the porous plate is arranged on a set table having an air joint. According to this configuration, air is pressured to the inside of the rubber film from the air joint provided in the floor, and the rubber film expands and deforms outwardly from the center due to its property. The deformation of rubber film causes the protection tape to be uniformly pushed toward the wafer.

Claim 5 stands rejected under 35 USC 102(a) as being anticipated by Japan 2000-357711 (Kazuya).

Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Kazuya discloses that an object (mounting board) is directly absorbed and fixed to the holding plate. On the contrary, claim 5, as amended, sets forth a semiconductor substrate jig comprising “a set table arranged within said frame; a porous plate arranged within said frame on

said set table; a floor within said frame spaced from said set table on a side opposite said porous plate; a rubber film enclosing said set table and porous plate; and an air joint formed in said frame, passing through said floor and said set table, and provided for applying pressure to said porous plate within said rubber film", in combination with the other claimed features.

Kazuya discloses that the holding plate 1 having adsorption holes 11 is placed in the supporting table 20 having a frame shape. The sheet member (flexible substrate 4) is put directly on the holding plate 1 to absorb and fix. However, **Kazuya** does not disclose any rubber film. Furthermore, **Kazuya** does not disclose a rubber film arranged on a porous plate with the porous plate being arranged on a set table having an air joint.

Kazuya fails to describe, teach or suggest the following features of claim 5, as amended: "a set table arranged within said frame; a porous plate arranged within said frame on said set table; a floor within said frame spaced from said set table on a side opposite said porous plate; a rubber film enclosing said set table and porous plate; and an air joint formed in said frame, passing through said floor and said set table, and provided for applying pressure to said porous plate within said rubber film", in combination with the other claimed features.

Thus, Applicant respectfully submits that this rejection of claim 5 should be withdrawn.

U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/708,067
Amendment filed November 24, 2004
Reply to OA dated August 25, 2004

Claims 7-9 have been newly added. Applicant has presented these additional claims to alternatively and more completely define Applicant's invention and thereby assist the Examiner by facilitating the speedy and compact prosecution of the present invention.

Although the Office Action mailed August 25, 2004 did not address these claims 7-9, not previously available to the Examiner, Applicant desires to make a record as to why **Kazuya** does not make them obvious, and otherwise indicate why they are patentable.

Kazuya fails to describe, teach, or suggest features set forth in claim 5, as amended, as discussed above, and therefore **Kazuya** also fails to describe, teach, or suggest features set forth in claims 7-9, in view of the fact that claims 7-9 depend from claim 5.

In view of the aforementioned amendments and accompanying remarks, the claims of this application are believed to be in condition for allowance, which action, at an early date, is respectfully requested.

If, for any reason, it is felt that this application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicant's undersigned attorney at the telephone number indicated below to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

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In the event that this paper is not timely filed, Applicant respectfully petitions for an appropriate extension of time. Please charge any fees for such an extension of time and any other fees which may be due with respect to this paper, to Deposit Account No. 01-2340.

Respectfully submitted,

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